NEKO TO KURASU

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Misty Rain Scans.
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With special thanks
to Denchan for agreeing to
help us with Story One~

猫と暮らす

漫画／小島美帆子
原作／はやしだちひろ

KC DESSERT

猫と暮らす

漫画／小島美帆子 (Manga / Kojima Mihoko)

原作／はやしだちひろ (Author / Hayashida Chihiro)

CONTENTS

Neko to Kurasu

Story 1

What "Fuu" Taught Me...003

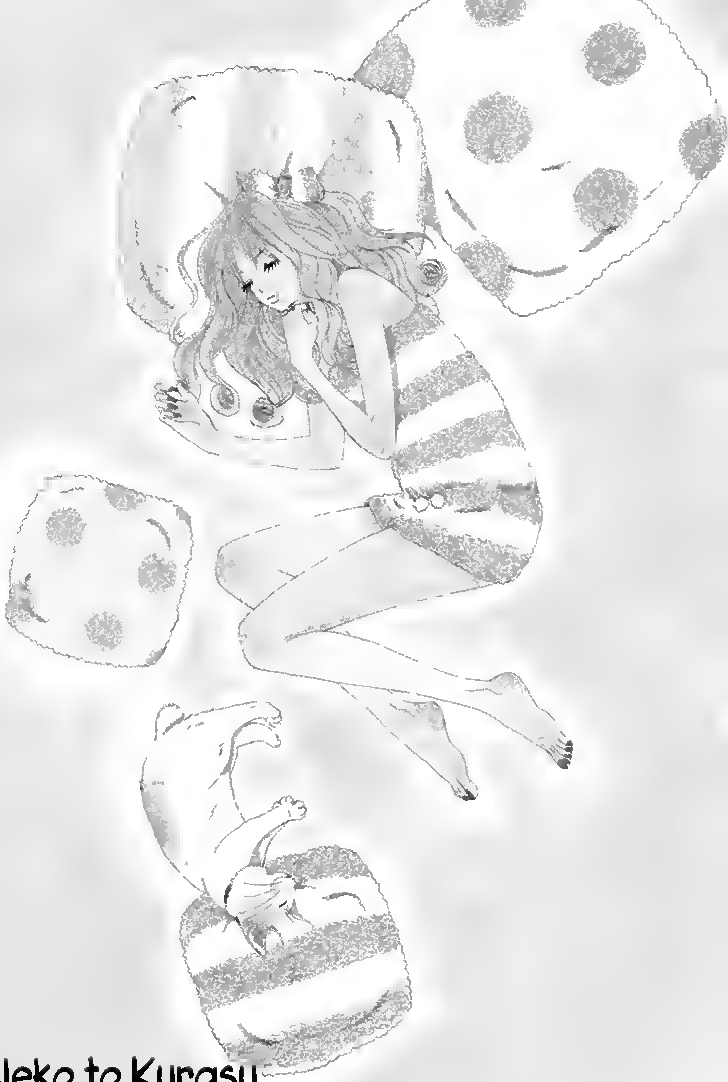
Story 2

What "Black" Told Me...101

Afterword

Kojima Mihoko...155

Hayashida Chihiro...158



Neko to Kurasu

Story 1: What "Fuu" Taught Me

That Hitomi

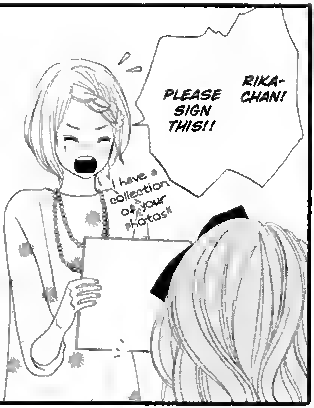
was always looking straight up.....

I DON'T WANT TO WORK WITH SOME NEWBIE!
SEE!? THAT'S WHY I TOLD YOU!
STOP, STOP!
S-
SORRY!
BUT, HITOMI'S FEES ARE CHEAP RIGHT NOW...
AND YOU COULD TEACH HER A THING OR TWO AS HER SENIOR IN THIS AGENCY, RIKA?
HEY, THIS ISN'T SUGAR-FREE!!
SORRY
WELL, I CAN'T WORK WITH THIS GIRL!
SWITCH HER WITH A DIFFERENT ONE!
HITOMI!
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
PREPARE A REPLACE-MENT
WHAT ELSE CAN WE DO?
RIKA IS THIS AGENCY'S STAR MODEL

16 15
MESSAGE RECEIVED
2012 /
MOM
RIKA
OH, IT'S JUST MOM.
TAKAHIRO!?
RRRR
HMPH!
IT'S MY PARENTS' CAT
WAH~ HOW CUTE~
DO YOU HAVE A CAT, RIKA-SAN?
...
AND HE'S NOT CUTE AT ALL
HUH?
AHHH... IS THAT SO?
THAT'S WHY I RARELY VISIT THEIR HOUSE ANYMORE
WE'RE NOT COMPATIBLE
HE GIVES ME AN ATTITUDE TOO, ACTS SO SNOTTY AROUND ME
EVER SINCE HE WAS ADOPTED, HE'S BEEN MORE ATTACHED TO MY MOM

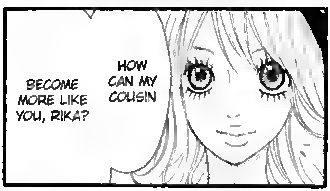
SHE'S COMING
MANAGER, IS THE REPLACE-MENT MODEL NOT HERE YET?
Rika, how are you? Fuu and I are doing well here at home, you know
We haven't heard from you in a while
but I'm sure you're busy
THEY'RE BORING ANYWAY.
slide
WHEN YOU'RE WITH HIM, RIGHT?
Ahh
BECAUSE TAKAHIRO-SAN'S BRAND RECEIVES MORE POPULARITY
CAUSE I HAVE TO BE AT TAKAHIRO'S PARTY TONIGHT!
Work hard and make sure to thank everyone on your staff, okay?
And please come to visit us every once in a while.
Yep! I'm his lucky luck!
whisper
whisper
Jeez, whose fault does she think it is that we're running late?

IN THE UPCOMING SHOW
YOU WILL BE WEARING A WEDDING DRESS.
TAKAHIRO-SAN,
WILL YOU PROPOSE TO HER THEN!?
FLASH
FLASH
RIKA-SAN,
PLEASE COME OVER HERE TOO!
PLEASE COME TO THE SHOW TO FIND OUT
WELL, I DON'T KNOW...
THAT WON'T COME CHEAP, YOU KNOW.
Yeah, yeah.
IT'S SO GREAT FOR YOU TO HAVE A GIRLFRIEND LIKE RIKA-CHAN.
He's RIKA-obsessed
THE PRESS CAME IN DROVES
THANKS TO RIKA!
BAM!
What a success~


RIKA-CHAN!
PLEASE SIGN THIS!!
I have a collection of your photos!

HA HA
THAT'S HARSH...

Hey
YOU SHOULD COLLABORATE WITH MY BRAND TOO!
WELL THEN GO BE MORE SUCCESS-FUL ♥
'CAUSE I ONLY WORK WITH THE BEST


HOW CAN MY COUSIN
BECOME MORE LIKE YOU, RIKA?

RIKA-CHAN IS REALLY POPULAR AMONG WOMEN, ISN'T SHE?
Kyaa~ got her auto-graph!

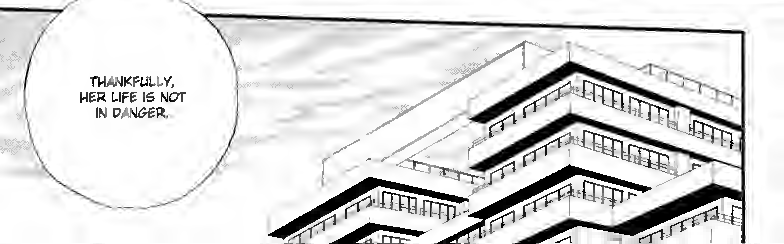
THAT'S IT~
SO, DOES THAT MEAN I PASS THE STANDARD?
RIGHT NOW YOU DO
ha ha ha ha

DON'T ASSOCIATE YOURSELF
WITH PEOPLE ON A LOWER LEVEL THAN YOU.

WELL...

It has been 6 years since I came to Tokyo to become a model...
So, do your best to not be cast aside, Takahiro!
Ahaha~
Clink
Since then I've leveled up both my job and my boyfriend.
OH NO, I'M GONNA BE LATE
Flick
WATCH OUT!
step
Even now...

and I walk
beneath
the light.
I aim
high
SHINING!!
beep
beep


THANKFULLY,
HER LIFE IS NOT
IN DANGER.

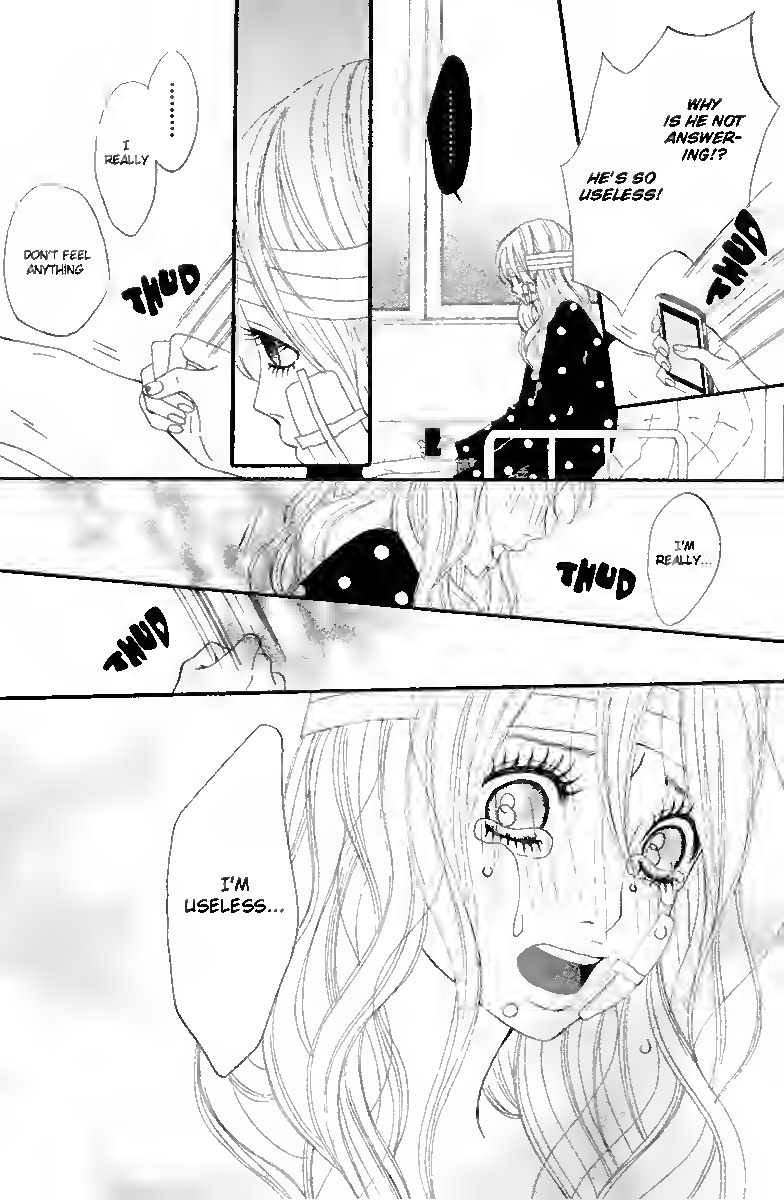
HOWEVER, HER SPINAL CORD HAS BEEN DAMAGED
I'M SORRY, BUT
SHE IS GOING TO BE IN A WHEEL-CHAIR FOR THE REST OF HER LIFE
SHOCKING NEWS: RIKA IN
NO HOPE OF A COMPLETE RECOVERY FOR MODEL RIKA

BOYFRIEND TAKAHIRO CONTINUES SHOWING IN SPITE OF GRIEF
Junior model "Hitomi" does splendidly as replacement for "Rika-san".
2
Rising Popularity
HITOMI
Hitomi♡style
Sweet mode♡

IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE YOU'VE BEEN BACK HERE RIKA
OKAY WE'RE HERE

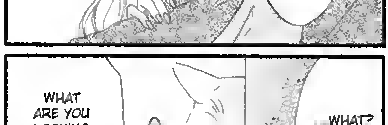
WE'VE MOVED YOUR ROOM TO THE GROUND FLOOR.
rattle
rattle
WHAT'S WRONG, FUU?
COME DOWN FROM THERE
IT'S JUST RIKA
MEOW
humph

He was never lovable, even from the beginning.
"HERE'S YOUR MEAL!"
Witch
GET DOWN!
THAT'S NOT CUTE AT ALL!
STOP LOOKING DOWN ON ME LIKE THAT!
YOU'VE NEVER VISITED
YOU CAN'T BLAME HIM.
shock
FUU
He never came to me, even when he was hungry.
There was a time when he wouldn't eat if we were around.
I didn't come back here because I wanted to...
This is Takahiro
I'm not here right now, but...
click


WHY IS HE NOT ANSWERING!?
HE'S SO USELESS!
THUD
THUD
I REALLY.....
DON'T FEEL ANYTHING
THUD
I'M REALLY...
THUD
I'M USELESS...

I can't walk anymore...
Beneath the light.
twitch
twitch
BAM

COME ON,
HOLD ON TO ME


WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT!?
WHAT?

YAWN

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?
OW~
Sheesh
I TOLD YOU TO CALL ME WHEN YOU'RE DONE!

I can't do anything by myself...
Hey, RIKA, DO YOU WANT TO GO TO A REHABILITATION CENTER?
I hate this.

STUPID CAT!!
QUIT MOCKING ME!!
RIKA!!

I'M NOT GOING
DIDN'T THE DOCTOR SAY THAT IT WILL RESTORE THE SENSATION IN YOUR LEGS?
SO WHAT IF I'LL BE ABLE TO FEEL MY LEGS? WILL THAT CHANGE THE FACT THAT I'LL BE IN A WHEELCHAIR FOREVER?
DING DONG
YES?
FORGIVE MY INTRUSION, BUT I'M FROM A WEEKLY PUBLICATION..
WILL YOU LET ME DO A STORY ON RIKA-SAN?
twitch
Wha...
WHAT IS THIS!?

BUT I WAS TOLD THAT SHE WAS NO LONGER PART OF THE AGENCY
UM,
I'VE ALREADY TRIED
PLEASE TAKE THAT UP WITH HER AGENCY!
THIS ISN'T THE TIME!
AH!
WHAT A CUTE KITTY~
RI...
YOU'RE BOTHERING US, PLEASE GO!
RIKA-SAN!
YOU'RE THERE, AREN'T YOU!?
RIKA-SAN!
DO YOU HAVE A MESSAGE FOR YOUR FANS!?

!!?
HISSSSS
Scary
~MY
HOW RUDE
FUU.
THANK YOU,
REALLY!
THAT WAS SO RUDE!
BUT,
THANKFULLY FUU DROVE HIM AWAY

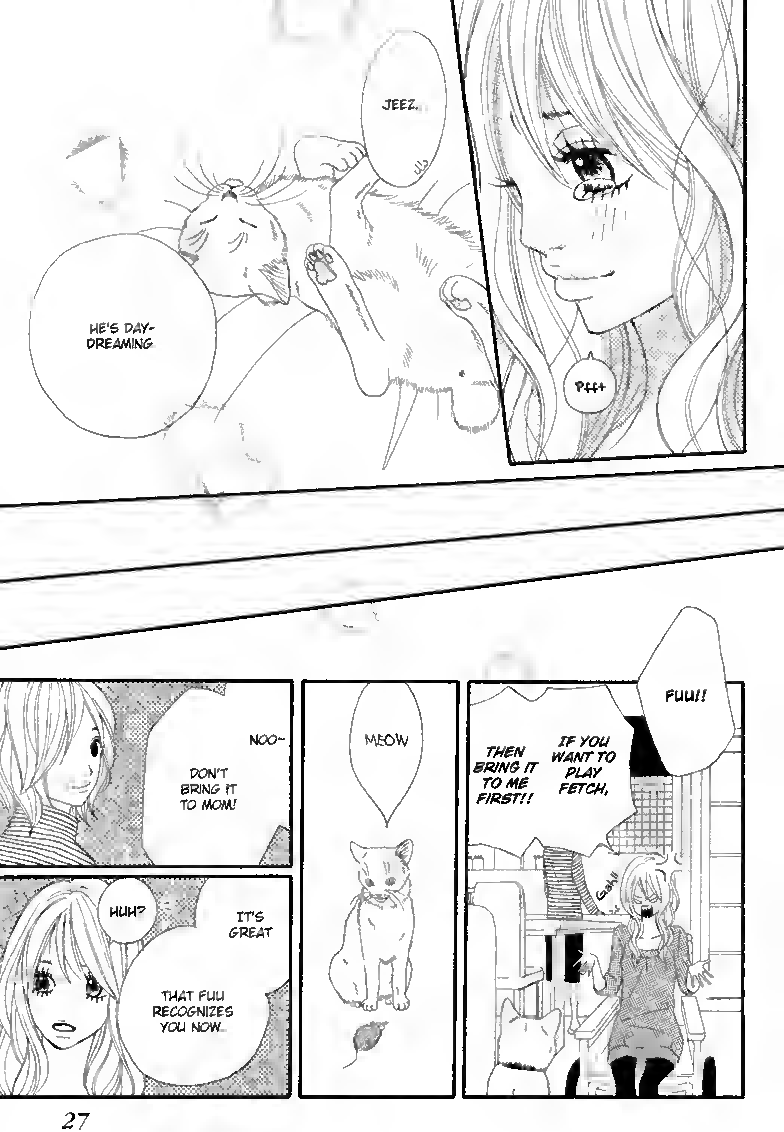
Help...
RRRRR
RRRRR
!
RR
TAKAHIRO!?
Takahiro is in the shower right now
It's been a while Rika-san
This is Hitomi
~Huh?
WHY...
ARE YOU...
TAKAHIRO GOT BORED!
YOU KNOW~
HE TOLD ME THAT ALL HE HEARD FROM YOU WERE COMPLAINTS
LET ME JUST SAY THIS...

You're not worth anything anymore.
Bye~♡
beep
WHERE'S RIKA?

...SHE'S
BEEN COOPED UP IN HER ROOM ALL DAY...
...WHAT?
NO
I CAN'T REACH THAT
MEOW
MEW

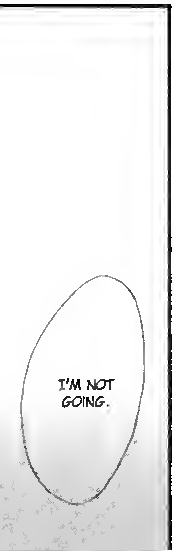
MEOW
WHY...
WHY DID YOU HAVE TO BRING THAT HERE!?
I KNOW YOU DON'T LIKE ME!
DON'T MAKE A FOOL OF ME JUST BECAUSE I'M IN A WHEELCHAIR!!
.....
!
KOA

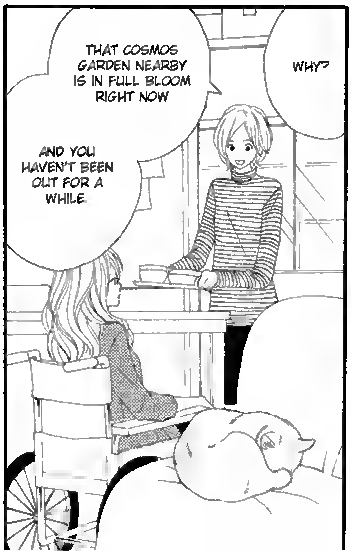
I KNOW I KNOW,
YOU WANNA BE PETTED, HUH!?
AT LEAST I CAN STILL DO THAT!
I FEEL... SO TERRIBLE RIGHT NOW, YOU KNOW!?
purr purr
NO ONE CARES ABOUT ME ANYMORE
THAT NEWBIE TOOK MY JOB AND MY MAN.
HE LOOKS SO HAPPY...
purr purr
HEY, ARE YOU LISTENING!?
THIS IS THE WORST MOMENT OF MY LIFE


JEEZ..
HE'S DAY-DREAMING
P-ff+
FUU!!
IF YOU WANT TO PLAY FETCH,
THEN BRING IT TO ME FIRST!!
Gahh
MEOW
NOO~
DON'T BRING IT TO MOM!
HUH?
IT'S GREAT
THAT FUU RECOGNIZES YOU NOW..

SEE?
IT CAN'T BE ME
FUU~
SNUB
FUU ALREADY DECIDED FROM THE START, YOU KNOW
WHY DO I HAVE TO BE RECOGNIZED BY HIM!?
AND RIKA IS HERE TO PLAY.
DAD IS JUST HERE TO EXIST
MOM IS HERE TO GIVE AFFECTION,
Oh, right. That was it.
SEE?
THANK GOODNESS
YOU'RE HERE, RIKA
SNUB

"YOU'RE NOT WORTH ANYTHING ANYMORE."
MEOW
but he always did when he wanted to play.
He usually wouldn't approach me,


I'M NOT GOING.


THAT COSMOS GARDEN NEARBY IS IN FULL BLOOM RIGHT NOW
AND YOU HAVEN'T BEEN OUT FOR A WHILE
WHY?

HEY RIKA,
DO YOU WANT TO GO FOR A WALK?

WHY DID YOU HAVE TO CHOOSE A PLACE THAT WOULD HAVE SO MANY PEOPLE...
IT'S A BIT OUT OF THE WAY.
SO NO ONE REALLY GOES THERE ON WEEKDAYS AT THIS HOUR
Nyaa~
LOOK,
EVEN FUU IS TELLING YOU TO GO
Oh~ they're so beautiful!
Aren't they?
Rika...
YEAH...
Ah?
FUU!
DON'T GO TOO FAR!
Whoa!!
This is great!!

I didn't know this place was here!
Right!?
Just 'cause it's a little out of the way!
Yeah~
whisper
EH...?
THAT'S...
ISN'T THAT THE MODEL, RIKA?
I SAID, LET'S GO HOME!!
Don't stare so much.
Let's go.
T-at poor girl
whisper whisper
whisper whisper
HUH!?
WELL, OKAY.
LET'S GO HOME!
I knew it. I shouldn't have come.
MEOW

COME DOWN, FUJI
WE'RE GOING HOME.
MEOW
What are you looking down at?
It's as if...
He wants to say
there is no reason to be ashamed.
TAP

MEOW
WHAT?
FUU, YOU WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND ABOUT THIS THING THAT YOU'RE RIDING
YOU CAN GO ANYWHERE ON YOUR OWN, SO YOU WILL NEVER UNDERSTAND!
PEOPLE WILL LOOK DOWN ON ME FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE!!
Did he just glare?
Wahw! A kitty!!

HEY, MASAKI!!
FUU...
WHY FUU?
What's his name?
Hey, hey!
——BECAUSE WHEN HE WAS ADOPTED ALL HE COULD SAY WAS "FUU"——
OH~
But, you're good friends now
That's great!
I'M SORRY
HE REALLY LIKES CATS
NOT AT ALL
YOU'RE RIKA-CHAN, RIGHT?
THUMP

I'M REALLY HAPPY FOR YOU
YOU SURVIVED
BUT, THANK GOODNESS...
HUH?
YEAH...
IT MUST HAVE BEEN TERRIBLE, WHAT HAPPENED
BUT, IS IT REALLY GOOD
THAT I'M ALIVE WITH THIS BODY?
YOU MET A CUTE KID, THANKS TO FUU
Bye, bye!
...YEAH.
SHE SAID
...THANK GOODNESS THAT I SURVIVED.

OF COURSE IT IS!!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!?
RIKA...
WHATEVER HAPPENS, YOU'RE STILL RIKA.
EVEN WHEN WE DISAPPROVED, YOU NEVER GAVE UP ON YOUR DREAM OF BECOMING A MODEL.
I BELIEVE IN THAT KIND OF STRENGTH
YOU MIGHT NOT BELIEVE IT RIGHT NOW, BUT...
SEE, FUJI THINKS SO TOO
MEOW
WHEN PEOPLE LOOK DOWN ON YOU,
YOU SHOULD HOLD YOUR HEAD UP WITH PRIDE.

TRY TO LIVE THE BEST THAT YOU CAN
UNTIL YOU CAN BELIEVE HOW GOOD IT IS THAT YOU ARE ALIVE.
I'M HERE FOR YOU
AND SO IS FUU
I WILL
"I'M REALLY HAPPY FOR YOU!!"

Until
I can truly believe what she said.
One
Two
Three
JUST A LITTLE MORE
OKAY!

DOKI
COULD YOU BE RIKA-SAN!?
I'm tired
HAA
CLUNK
IT IS YOU!!
Outpatient Care
DOKI
I'M ALSO HERE FOR REHAB!!
I GET TO MEET OUR LOCAL STAR!!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!!
Local star
I'm just here to meet the doctor
!
HAI
You look so cute even without makeup~♡

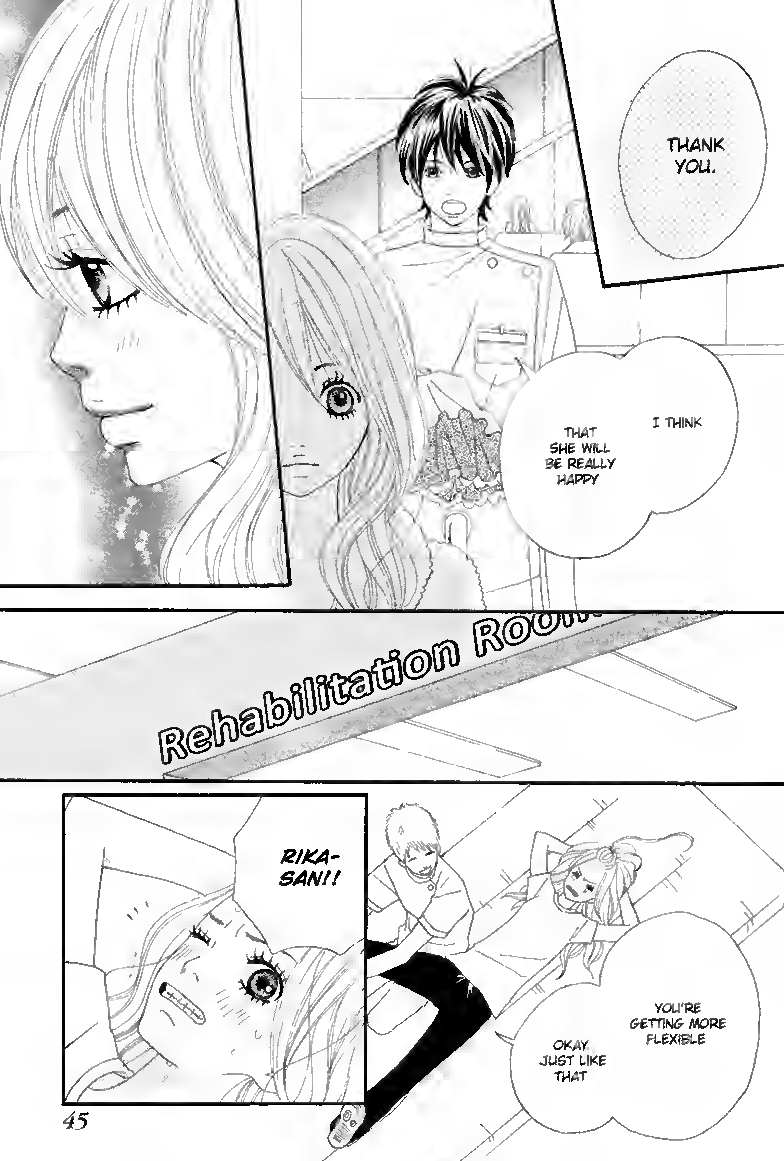
That's right... I haven't worn any makeup since the accident.
I saw you in that magazine~♡
But, aren't there a lot of clothes that you can't wear in a wheelchair?
I really loved how you rocked those clothes~
Please do your best in your rehab!
Somehow...
I can't hate her at all.
...THANK YOU.
SATOMI!
HAVE YOU MET THE DOCTOR ALREADY?
Mom is waiting.
YEP.

Rika-san!
See ya.
BROTHER!!
She can hear you!
Yes, I can!
HEY
IS THAT
REALLY RIKA?
HER FACE LOOKS TOTALLY DIFFERENT.
This is Rika-san, the model!
Brother,
He works in this hospital.
Ah,
Rika-san, that's my brother
There huh.
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU I'M MORIMURA
How rude~!
...IS IT REALLY THAT DIFFERENT?
CLICK

RIKA'S STYLE
30 days
The Art of Dressing
I really did..
Lose the motivation to dress well.
Ack!
SCRATCH SCRATCH
FUU!!
STOP THAT!!
THOSE JEANS ARE EXPENSIVE!!

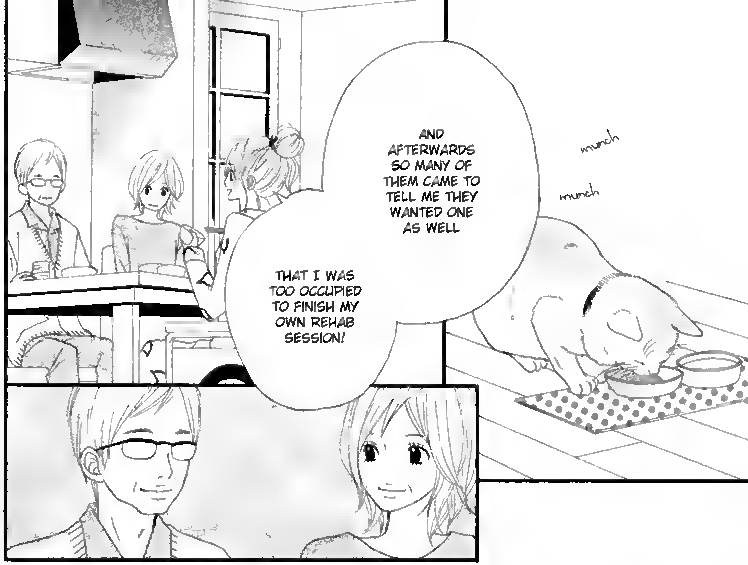
BUT
I'LL NEVER WEAR THESE AGAIN...
It's hard to go to the bathroom now wearing slim fit jeans... And the waist is too low...
GRRRR
DOESN'T KNOW!
DAMMIT~
SCRATCHING THE EXPENSIVE ONES, OF ALL THINGS!!
That idiot!
"A LOT OF CLOTHES THAT YOU CAN'T WEAR IN A WHEELCHAIR?"
"BUT, AREN'T THERE"
HM?

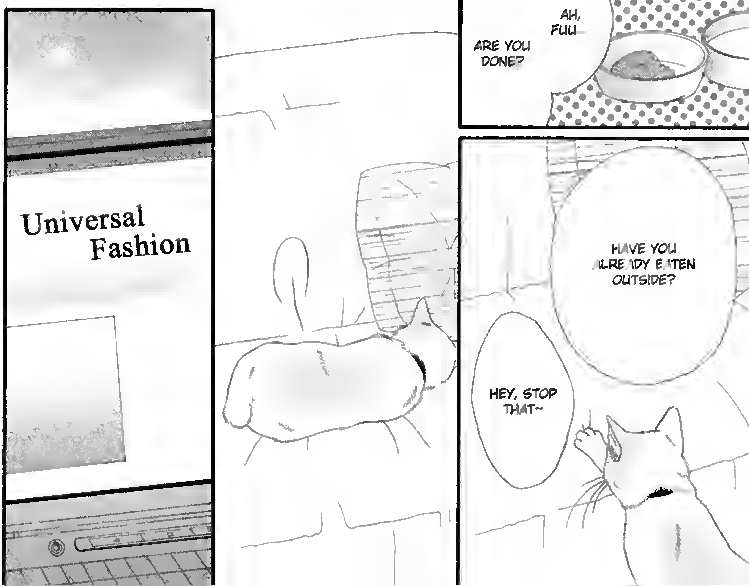
I CHANGED THE WAIST TO AN ELASTIC ONE TOO, SO IT'S EASY TO WEAR EVEN IN A WHEELCHAIR.
THIS...
PLEASE GIVE IT TO YOUR SISTER.
I REMADE IT FROM SOME JEANS THAT I COULDN'T WEAR ANYMORE.
WHY ARE YOU GIVING THIS TO SATOMI?
.....
She did hear...
BECAUSE, UNLIKE HER BROTHER, SHE TOLD ME THAT I WAS CUTE WITHOUT MAKEUP.
I'M DOING IT AS A FORMER MODEL
You can put it in this bag.
...BUT-
I'M KIDDING.
WELL THEN...
WHEN SHE TOLD ME THAT THERE WERE A LOT OF CLOTHES THAT COULDN'T BE WORN IN A WHEELCHAIR
ACTUALLY, IT'S BECAUSE SHE SEEMED REALLY DISAPPOINTED


THANK YOU.
I THINK THAT SHE WILL BE REALLY HAPPY
Rehabilitation Room
RIKA-SAN!!
OKAY, JUST LIKE THAT
YOU'RE GETTING MORE FLEXIBLE

Look, look!
Does it look good on me!?
It really does
YEAH
SATOMI-CHAN SHE'S NOT QUITE DONE YET
But, I wanted to thank her as soon as I could!
WOW, THAT'S GREAT!
'Cause Rika-san made this skirt just for me!
My friends told me that they wanted one too,
but I told them that these clothes were designed to be worn while in a wheelchair
She made the waistband elastic
and made the front a little longer so that it looks best when you're sitting
HM...

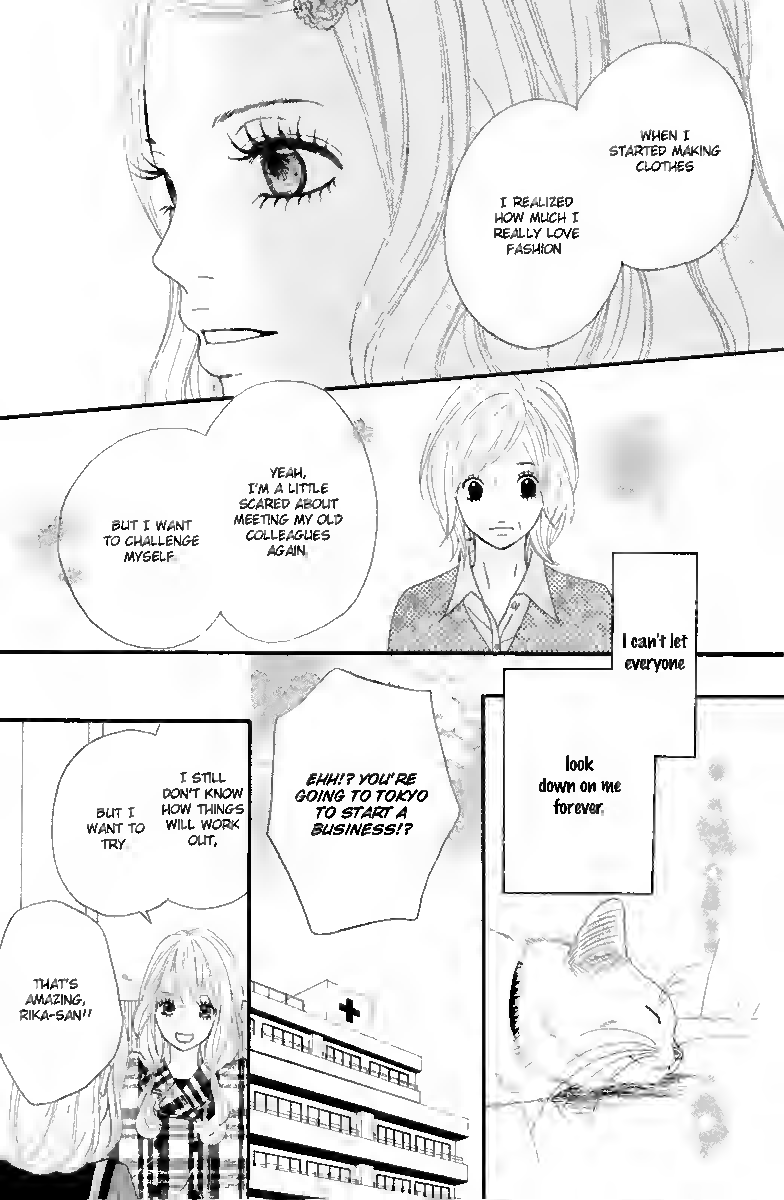
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME THAT I MADE NON-HANDICAPPED PEOPLE JEALOUS.
UHUH
THANK YOU, RIKA-SAN~♡
WOW
WITH A GREAT SENSE FOR FASHION LIKE THAT YOU JUST KNOW
THAT IT WAS MADE BY A MODEL RIGHT!?
Right!
CLOTHES THAT CAN BE WORN EASILY BY PEOPLE WHO HAVE DIFFICULTY MOVING, LIKE THE HANDICAPPED OR THE ELDERLY
UNIVERSAL DESIGN?
It's rare to see cute clothes with such a universal design
You should make more of these, Rika-san~♡


AND AFTERWARDS SO MANY OF THEM CAME TO TELL ME THEY WANTED ONE AS WELL
THAT I WAS TOO OCCUPIED TO FINISH MY OWN REHAB SESSION!
munch
munch


Universal Fashion
ARE YOU DONE?
AH, FULL
HAVE YOU ALREADY EATEN OUTSIDE?
HEY, STOP THAT~

Maybe
I can make something out of this.
HMM...
JACKETS THAT CAN FASTEN IN THE BACK
SHIRTS THAT ARE LONGER IN THE FRONT
I DIDN'T KNOW THERE WERE SO MANY THINGS THAT YOU COULD DO...
DON'T YOU THINK THAT FUU IS GETTING THINNER?

HE HASN'T BEEN GOING OUT LIKE HE USED TO...
Maybe it's just too cold outside.
MAYBE WE SHOULD TAKE HIM TO A DOCTOR
HUH? IS HE?
HEY MOM,
WOULD YOU BE ABLE TO TAKE ME TO TOKYO SOMEDAY?
TOKYO!?
I'M GOING TO USE MY OLD CONNECTIONS TO DISCUSS STARTING A UNIVERSAL FASHION LINE
...I'M FINE WITH IT, BUT WILL YOU BE OKAY?
THIS MEANS YOU WILL HAVE TO DEAL WITH THE SAME PEOPLE THAT YOU DID WHEN YOU WERE MODELING BEFORE


WHEN I STARTED MAKING CLOTHES
I REALIZED HOW MUCH I REALLY LOVE FASHION
YEAH, I'M A LITTLE SCARED ABOUT MEETING MY OLD COLLEAGUES AGAIN.
BUT I WANT TO CHALLENGE MYSELF.
I can't let everyone look down on me forever.
EHH!? YOU'RE GOING TO TOKYO TO START A BUSINESS!?
I STILL DON'T KNOW HOW THINGS WILL WORK OUT,
BUT I WANT TO TRY.
THAT'S AMAZING, RIKA-SAN!!

IT MADE ME WANT TO GET BACK INTO THE FASHION WORLD.
YOU HELPED ME REMEMBER HOW FUN IT WAS TO PLAY WITH FASHION.
IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU, SATOMI-CHAN.
HUH!?
AWW SHUCKS- ME!?
SATOMI,
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE BACK
BROTHER!
UMM, THANKS FOR EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE FOR HER
NOT AT ALL...
.....

I have an idea!
I'm so terrible at dealing with him.
It's not that he's a bad person, but he's a little reserved.
I'M SORRY FOR ALL THE TROUBLE HAVING YOU DRIVE ME TO TOKYO ON YOUR DAY OFF AND ALL...
IT'S NOTHING. IT'S THE LEAST I COULD DO AFTER WHAT YOU DID FOR SATOMI.
WELL, DURING MY MODELING DAYS
YOU WOULDN'T EVEN BE ON MY RADAR!!
...THAT'S PRETTY STUPID.
!?
YOU SHOULDN'T JUST BELITTLE PHYSIOTHERAPISTS LIKE THAT.
WHAT IS IT?
Nothing.
I WAS JUST THINKING THAT WITH MAKEUP ON YOU REALLY ARE STARTING TO LOOK LIKE "RIKA".

.....
NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
WHAT MADE YOU WANT TO BECOME A PHYSIO-THERAPIST?
I MEAN, YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME IF YOU DON'T WANT TO!
THERE WAS A TIME...
WHEN I ALSO NEEDED REHA-BILITATION
...Huh?
I HAD A MAJOR INJURY WHILE PLAYING BASEBALL IN JUNIOR HIGH.
THE DOCTORS TOLD ME THAT IT WOULD BE HARD TO CONTINUE PLAYING.
IT WOULD'VE BEEN SO EASY TO GIVE UP AT THAT TIME,
BUT THE PHYSIOTHERAPIST WHO TOOK CARE OF ME ALWAYS TOLD ME THAT I WOULD BE BACK ON MY FEET ONE DAY
HE REALLY PUSHED ME TO THE LIMIT IN REHAB

I WAS BACK IN THE BASEBALL CLUB
BY THE TIME I WAS IN HIGH SCHOOL,
He's just like Fuu.
.....
THAT'S WHEN
I've finally realized why I'm so terrible at dealing with him.....
He does what he wants and doesn't need anyone's approval.
I DECIDED ON WHAT I WANTED TO BE.
I WILL, THANK YOU.
WELL THEN, CALL ME IF YOU NEED ANYTHING.
HUH?
NO WONDER WE'RE NOT COMPAT-IBLE.

Okay, then...
Look straight up and go.
CHATTER
RIKA-CHAN!?
SORRY FOR JUST BURSTING IN LIKE THAT.
CAN WE TALK?
YOU... SEEM WELL.
YOU SCARED ME...
WHAT HAPPENED!?
YOU DID SAY THAT YOU WANTED TO WORK TOGETHER.
YEAH, LIKE WHAT I'M WEARING RIGHT NOW.
A UNIVERSAL FASHION BRAND?

BUT WHAT I WANTED WAS THE COMMERCIAL VALUE THAT CAME WITH "RIKA THE MODEL".
YEAH, I KNOW I SAID BEFORE THAT I WANTED TO WORK WITH YOU,
SORRY.
IT'LL BE A BLEND OF FUNCTION AND FASHION...
AND IT'S NOT JUST FOR HANDICAPPED PEOPLE. IT'S ALSO FOR KIDS, PREGNANT WOMEN...
Looks like she's selling something.
What's that?
I THINK YOU'D FIND IT INTERESTING IF YOU GIVE IT A TRY.
YOU'RE SELFISH, YOU ALWAYS LOOKED DOWN ON EVERYONE
AND YOU SAID THAT YOU WERE GOING TO MAKE EVERY-ONE PAY
I'LL NEVER WORK WITH RIKA THE PERSON.

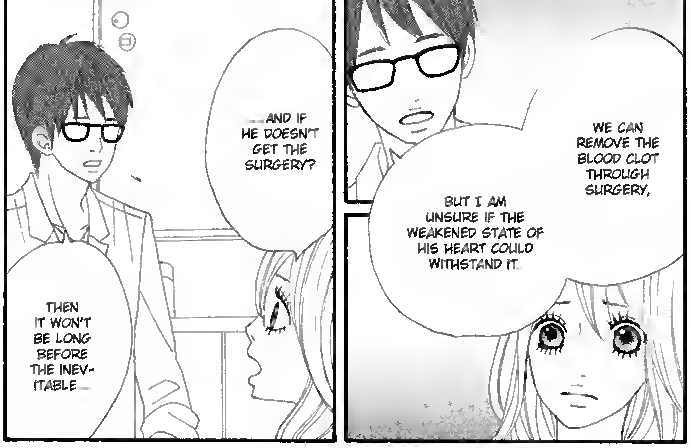
SCREECH
I'M SORRY BUT, I DON'T THINK THAT ANYONE WHO KNEW YOU FROM YOUR MODELING LIFE
WILL EVER WANT TO WORK WITH YOU
Kyaa!
DONE ALREADY?
LET ME TAKE YOUR BAG.
YEAH

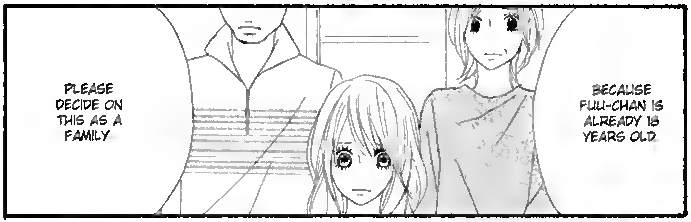
RIKA ..!?
flip
flip
AH
WOW, ARE YOU DESIGNING RIGHT NOW, RIKA-SAN?
AND IS THIS YOUR BOYFRIEND?
HE'S A GOOD MATCH
ISN'T HE, TAKAHIRO?

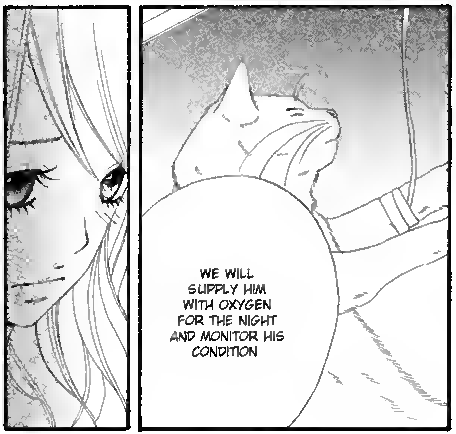
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID
THAT YOU DON'T ASSOCIATE WITH PEOPLE BELOW YOUR LEVEL!
W-
WHAT?
UGH, NEVER MIND!
YOU'RE
I'm an idiot.
Ahh wait~
Let's go!

Of course the old me would reject the me right now.
I don't have a place here to return to.....

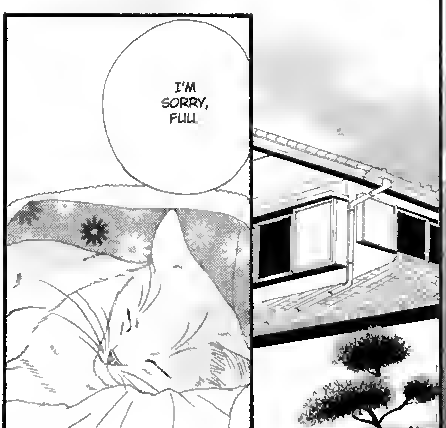
IT'S FUU...
WHAT'S WRONG!?
FUU!
FUU!?
WHAT HAPPENED TO FUU!?
ANIMAL CLINIC
IT'S WEAKENING HIS HEART
WE FOUND A CLOT IN HIS BLOOD VESSEL IT'S PREVENTING OXYGEN FROM PROPERLY CIRCULATING IN HIS BODY


...AND IF HE DOESN'T GET THE SURGERY?
THEN IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE THE INEV-ITABLE...
WE CAN REMOVE THE BLOOD CLOT THROUGH SURGERY,
BUT I AM UNSURE IF THE WEAKENED STATE OF HIS HEART COULD WITHSTAND IT.



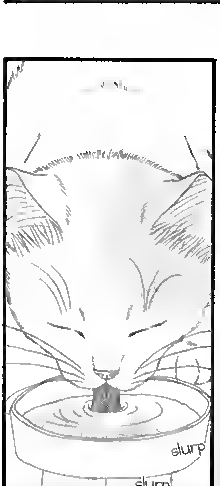


Fortunately, Fuu recovered after spending a night in the oxygen room.



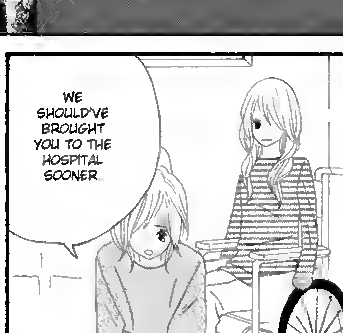
We decided not to go with the surgery

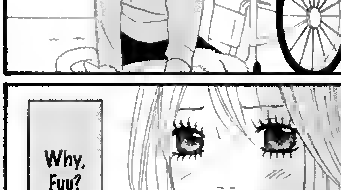
and took Fuu home.



Not too long ago

you were looking down at me like it was nothing.....





THANK GOODNESS
HE'S LOOKING A LITTLE BETTER
YEAH
FUJI?
AH, HE'S GOING POTTY
OH, RIKA, YOU'LL BE LATE FOR YOUR REHAB
IT'S FINE, I'M NOT GOING
FUJI IS GOING TO BE FINE
HIS CONDITION IS STABLE
IT'S NOT THAT
IT DOESN'T FEEL LIKE I'M PROGRESSING
IT'S JUST... IT GETS TIRING
THERE'S NO NEED TO RUSH, YOU CAN JUST GO AT YOUR OWN PACE
I DID MY BEST TO TRY HARD...
BUT...

"I'LL NEVER WORK WITH RIKA THE PERSON."
"YOU'RE THE ONE WHO SAID THAT YOU DON'T ASSOCIATE WITH PEOPLE BELOW YOUR LEVEL!"
I DON'T KNOW ANY-MORE...
WHAT I'M TRYING SO HARD FOR...
.....
I HAVE NOTHING LEFT...
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
SCRATCH
FUU!?
HOP
GOOD BOY FOR USING THE TOILET, FUU.
Come here
.....

HE'S EARNED HIS SPOT THERE AFTER 18 YEARS
IT'S FINE
OH, IS FUJI SLEEPING THERE NOW?
YEAH, I THINK HE'D BE MORE COMFORTABLE ON THE FLOOR THOUGH
I DON'T THINK THAT WE SHOULD BE SUDDENLY TREATING HIM LIKE A HOSPITAL PATIENT.
HUH?
I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT FEELING
IT'S WEIRD BUT, I FEEL LIKE I CAN RELATE TO HIM MORE
I SEE

BUT FOR A CAT, 16 YEARS OLD MEANS THAT HE HAS MORE LIFE EXPERIENCE THAN ANYONE IN THIS HOUSE
WE TREAT FUJI LIKE A CHILD,
.....
I KNOW
DON'T STARE
WE HAVE TO TREAT HIM WITH A SENSE OF RESPECT
.....
.....

OKAY...
whisper
RIKA,
GET THE RAG
whisper
AH...
We treated him in a way
that wouldn't hurt his pride.
HEY,
RIKA-SAN HASN'T BEEN COMING TO REHAB THESE DAYS.
HAVE YOU HEARD ANYTHING FROM SATOMI-CHAN?

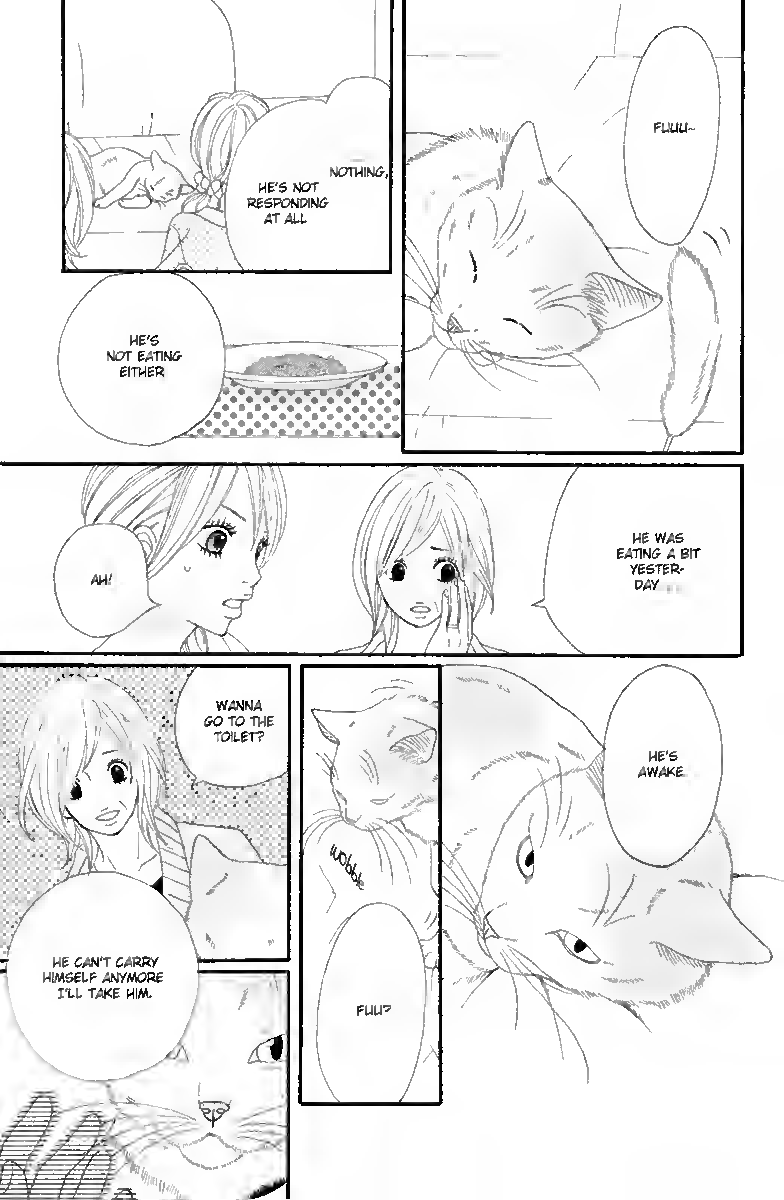
HI.
I'M SO SORRY FOR ALL THE TROUBLE,
HAVING YOU TAKE RIKA TO TOKYO.
NO, I'M SORRY FOR COMING HERE ALL OF A SUDDEN.
SHUTS
SATOMI AND THE DOCTORS ARE WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
BUT, YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY NOT WORRIED FOR YOURSELF IF YOU'RE NOT GOING TO REHAB.
Okay, I'll leave you two
I'M GOING TO GO SHOPPING.
KEEP AN EYE ON FUU, OKAY?
SURE.

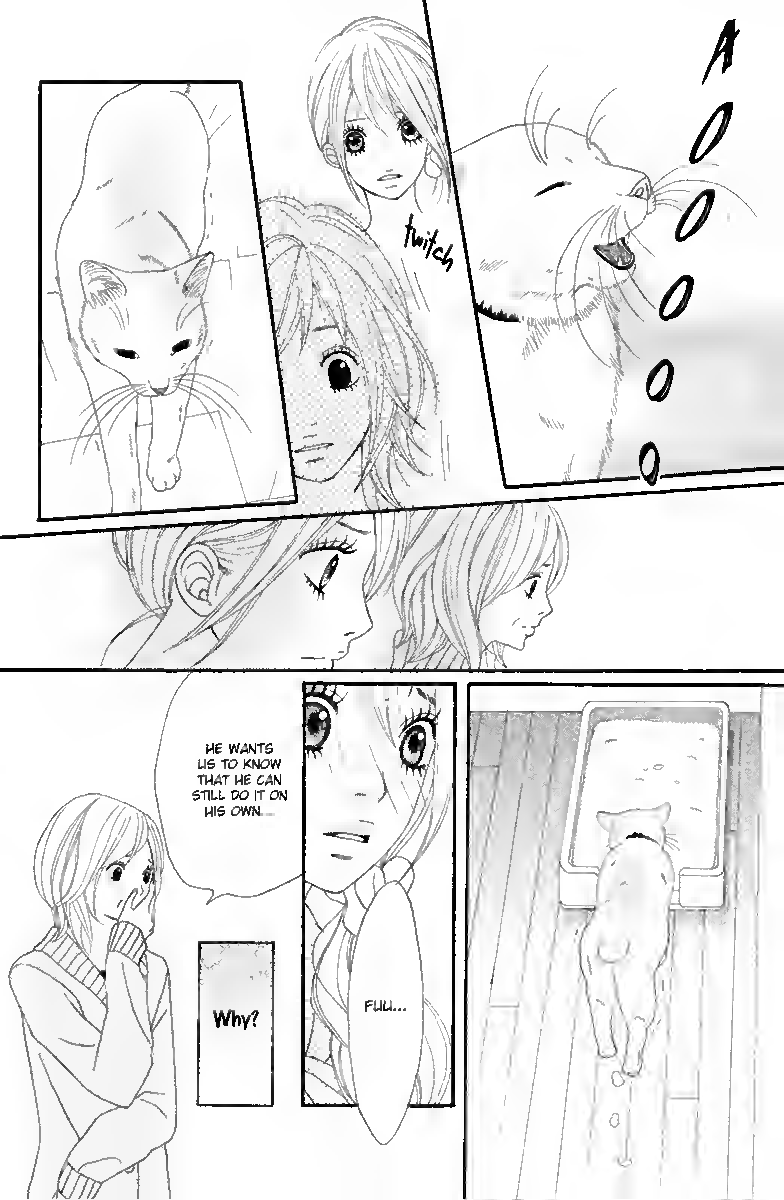
.....
I'LL BE FINE
AS LONG AS MOM IS HERE, I'LL BE FINE
YOU KNOW THAT, RIGHT?
I KNEW IT, YOU'RE DEPRESSED
~OKAY, YES!
I AM DEPRES-SED!!
IS THAT SO BAD!?
BECAUSE I DIDN'T WANT TO ASSOCIATE MYSELF WITH PEOPLE BELOW MY LEVEL!!
PEOPLE FROM MY PREVIOUS LIFE REFUSE TO WORK WITH ME!!
THAT'S HOW HORRIBLE I AM...!

ISN'T THAT GOOD?
BUT, NOW YOU'RE AWARE OF IT
...YEAH, YOU ARE
...Huh?
I WOULDN'T EVEN BE IN YOUR RADAR, ISN'T THAT RIGHT?
DURING YOUR MODEL DAYS
WHY~
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO BOTHER ME WITH THAT EVERY TIME I'M FEELING DOWN!?
YOUR HEART IS STILL WEAK, DON'T OVEREXERT YOURSELF.
FULL,
DON'T!
SHUT UP!!
HAA?
MEOW

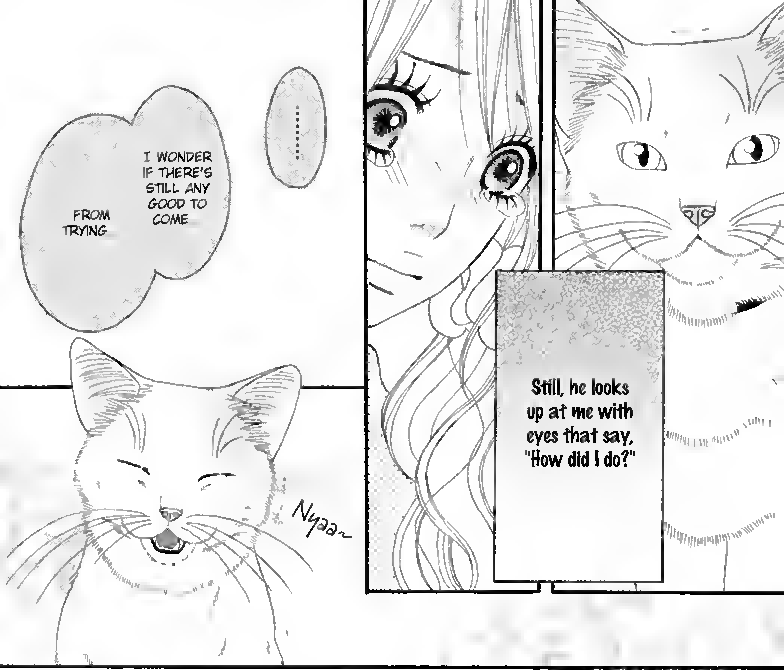
SQUEAK
HE'S JUST RIGHT THERE, I DON'T THINK HE'S OVEREXERTING HIMSELF
CATS LIKE HIM
CAN TAKE AWAY YOUR TROUBLES LIKE IT'S NOTHING.
THAT'S GREAT, FUJI.
SATOMI WAS SUPER HAPPY
WHEN SHE RECEIVED THE CLOTHES THAT YOU GAVE HER.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD TRY ONE MORE TIME
WITH THE NEW YOU?
.....

IS THIS A SISTER COMPLEX?
THE FACT THAT YOU CAN MAKE SOMEONE SO HAPPY JUST BY ONE ARTICLE OF CLOTHING,
IT'S SIMPLY GREAT.
What?
"MAYBE YOU SHOULD TRY ONE MORE TIME, WITH THE NEW YOU?"
Someone like you, who is not handicapped,
will never understand.
FULL.


NOTHING.
HE'S NOT RESPONDING AT ALL
HE'S NOT EATING EITHER
FUUU~
AH!
HE WAS EATING A BIT YESTER-DAY
WANNA GO TO THE TOILET?
HE CAN'T CARRY HIMSELF ANYMORE I'LL TAKE HIM.
WOBBLE
FUU?
HE'S AWAKE


twitch
AOOOOO
HE WANTS US TO KNOW THAT HE CAN STILL DO IT ON HIS OWN...
Why?
FUU...

HE STILL...
...WHY IS HE STILL TRYING SO HARD?
IT'S GOING TO BE FINE.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TRY SO HARD!
But....
You'll only make a fool of yourself


I WONDER IF THERE'S STILL ANY GOOD TO COME FROM TRYING
.....
Still, he looks up at me with eyes that say, "How did I do?"
Nyaa~

HE DOES
I WONDER IF HE REALLY UNDER-STANDS

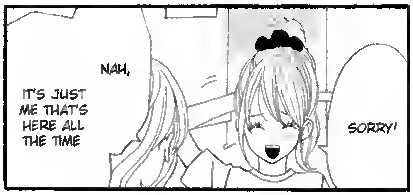
IF FUU IS TRYING,
THEN I'M ALSO GOING TO TRY ONE MORE TIME.
I'M GOING BACK TO REHAB STARTING TODAY.
I JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU THAT.
...THANK YOU.
I KNOW YOU SAID IT, BUT THIS ISN'T BECAUSE OF YOU!
IT'S BECAUSE OF FUU, WHO'S BEEN TRYING SO HARD!
AH

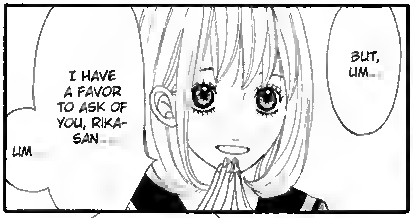
Nurse Station
BYE!
BUT...
THANK YOU.
HEY
I WAS TOLD THAT I'M GOING TO BE YOUR THERAPIST STARTING TODAY.
SHOULD WE START?
!?
Whaaat~!?

F...
For him to touch me like this.....
OKAY,
WAKE UP.
COME ON.
WELL,

PULL
.....His hands are so big.....
HNNNP
HNNNP
WHAT THE HELL AM I THINKING!?
THIS IS REHAB! REHAB!!
FUU...

RIKA IS TRYING REALLY HARD, TOO
YOU'VE TRIED SO HARD, FUU
RIKA-SAN.


SORRY!
NAH,
IT'S JUST ME THAT'S HERE ALL THE TIME

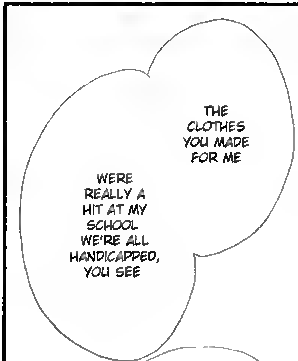

BUT, UM...
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU, RIKA-SAN...
UM...

SATOMI-CHAN
It's great to see you today!
'Cause I heard that you hadn't been coming recently!

You have experience and everything!

SO...
I WAS WONDERING IF YOU'D JOIN THE FASHION SHOW...
WOULD YOU!?

BUT...
I'M NOT A PRO ANYMORE. I'M NOT ANYTHING ANYMORE...

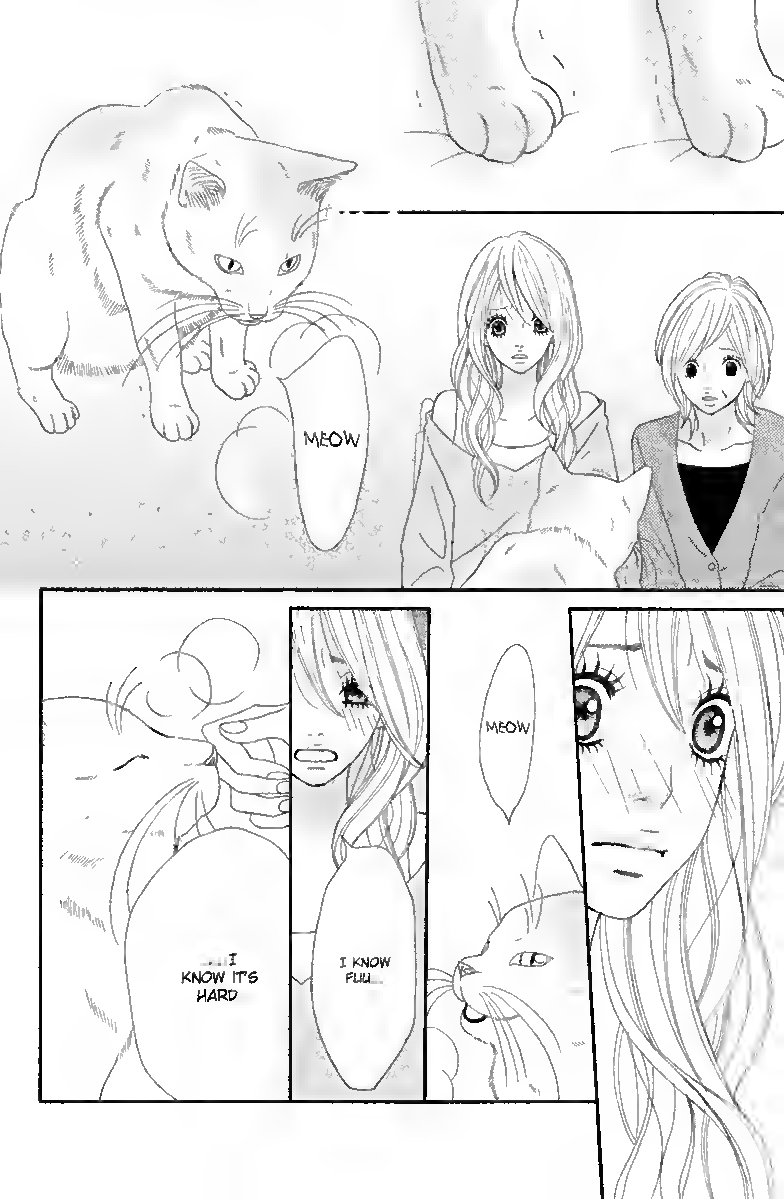

THE CLOTHES YOU MADE FOR ME
WERE REALLY A HIT AT MY SCHOOL. WE'RE ALL HANDICAPPED, YOU SEE

THEREFORE, WE REALLY WANT TO HOLD A UNIVERSAL FASHION SHOW FOR OUR SCHOOL FESTIVAL

THAT'S NOT TRUE!
WE WOULDN'T HAVE EVEN THOUGHT OF THIS IDEA IF IT WASN'T FOR YOU!
NOW EVERYONE IS REALLY EXCITED!
All thanks to you!
Everyone was like
"We want to do this with Rika-san!"
"I'LL NEVER WORK WITH RIKA THE PERSON"
"I DON'T THINK THAT ANYONE WHO KNEW YOU FROM YOUR MODELING LIFE WILL EVER WANT TO WORK WITH YOU!"

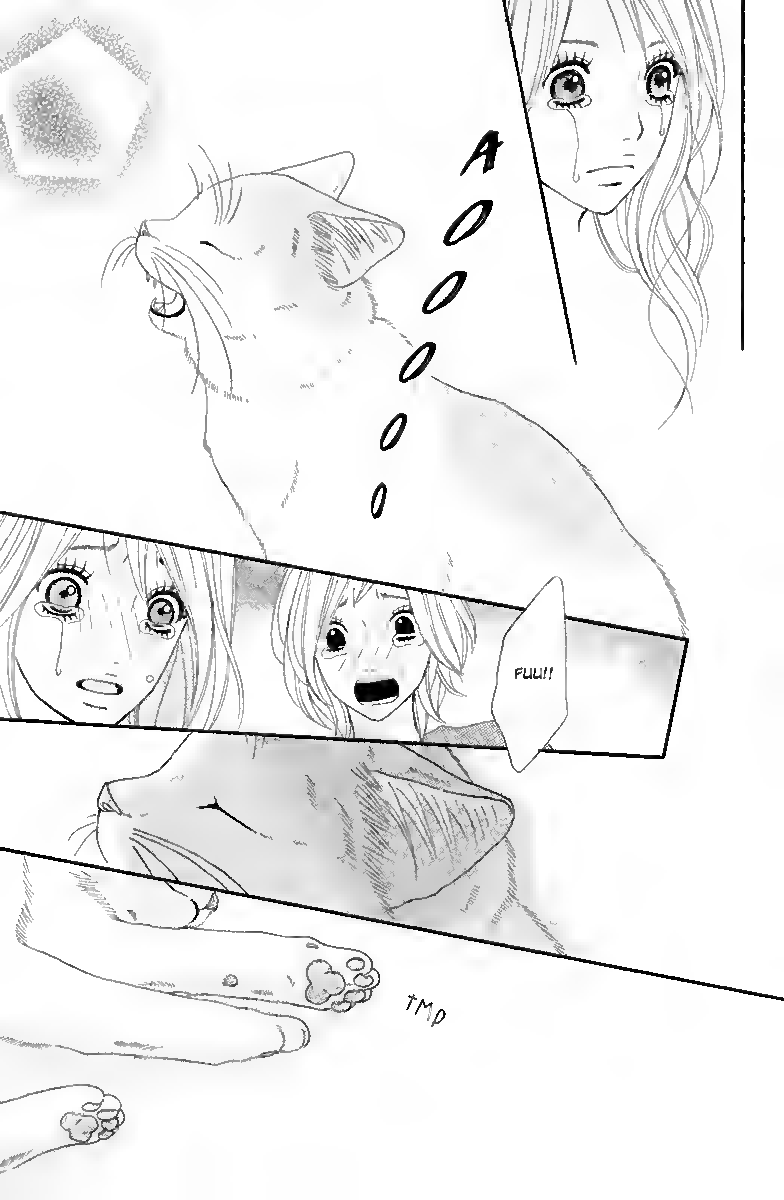
REALLY!?
THANK YOU
I'LL DO IT IF YOU REALLY WANT ME TO
.....
There are still people who want to associate with me.
Everyone will be so happy!
RRRR
EXCUSE ME
BEEP
AH.
RRRR
WHAT HAPPENED TO FUU!?
HELLO?
Rika!?
It's Fuu...!

HE'S BEEN HAVING TROUBLE BREATHING
FUU!?
FUU!
!
HE KNOWS YOU'RE HERE!!
FUU!
FUU?


MEOW
MEOW
I KNOW FUU...
...I KNOW IT'S HARD

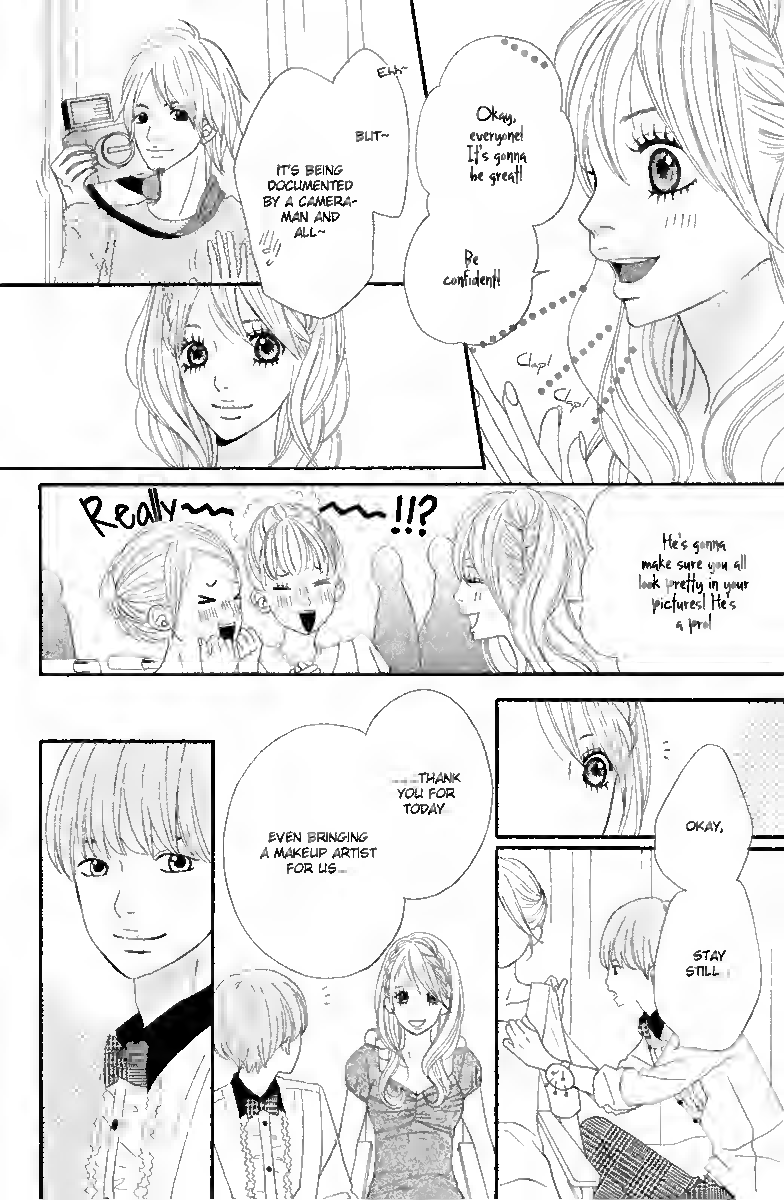
RIKA...
I THINK YOU SHOULD HOLD HIM
YEAH...
I UNDER-STAND
I UNDERSTAND YOUR PAIN
I KNOW... FULL
BUT, JUST LIKE YOU SHOWED ME...

IF YOU TRY HARD, EVERY-THING WILL BE ALL RIGHT
THANK YOU.
drip
IF YOU HADN'T BEEN HERE,
THEN I WOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT OF DOING IT.


AOOOOOO
FUU!!
TMD

FUU...
FUU...
FUU!!
.....YOU DID YOUR BEST.

AND
SO WILL I, FUU.
THANK YOU.
For me, Fuu wasn't just a pet.
He was my chief who reminded me how to live life.
YOKOHAMA SCHOOL FOR THE HANDICAPPED
SCHOOL FESTIVAL


Okay, everyone! It's gonna be great!
Be confident!
Chop! Chop!
Eh~
Hii~
IT'S BEING DOCUMENTED BY A CAMERA-MAN AND ALL~
Really~~~~!!?
He's gonna make sure you all look pretty in your pictures! He's a pro!
OKAY,
STAY STILL
...THANK YOU FOR TODAY
EVEN BRINGING A MAKEUP ARTIST FOR US...

I KNOW YOU'RE NOT THE SAME RIKA AS BEFORE.
AFTER I KEPT LOOKING DOWN ON YOU ALL THIS TIME...
YOU HAD NO REASON TO HELP ME
THE RIKA-CHAN NOW
IS A HUNDRED TIMES MORE ATTRACTIVE
HEY...
We're now on standby!
Rika-saaaan!

WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
WHY DO I HAVE TO WEAR THIS?
YOU'RE GOING TO BE WALKING WITH YOUR CUTE LITTLE SISTER. ISN'T IT GREAT?
BUT, ACTUALLY, I WANTED HIM TO WALK WITH YOU, RIKA-SAN
Huh?
WHY ME?
HE SAID IT WAS A SECRET, BUT...
MY BROTHER IS RIKA-SAN'S BIGGEST FAN
HEY!!
He thought it would be totally uncool
to say something like, "Rika, I'm a big fan~♡"
SATOMI!!
TALK AND RUN
Okay, bye~♪

He really is just like Fuu.
Looking down on me like that...
WHAT?
Pfff
WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING AT!?
I'M HAVING A HARD TIME
NOT CALLING YOU FUU
FU FU FU
HUH?
Stop laughing at me with that weird face!
NOW I UNDERSTAND!
THAT MUST'VE REALLY SHATTERED YOUR DREAMS!
I'M SORRY
FOR LETTING YOU SEE ME WITHOUT MAKEUP
YOU SAID...
THAT I WOULDN'T EVEN BE ON YOUR RADAR DURING YOUR MODELING DAYS.
HM?

THAT'S WHY I PREFER THE YOU RIGHT NOW.
BLUSHING FROM EAR TO EAR
I'M NOT A MODEL ANY-MORE,
SO YOU'RE TOTALLY ON MY RADAR!
REMEMBER THAT I'M TELLING YOU THIS NOW THAT YOU'RE IN A TUXEDO.
SO DON'T LEAVE ME DIS-APPOINTED!
YOU'RE STILL

A LITTLE EVIL.
chatter
chatter
Beneath the light...
OKAY, RIKA-SAN, START THE SHOW!
EVERYONE READY? STAY CALM
Don't forget to keep smiling!
Yeah!

Waaah!
START!
Fwoosh
I will walk proudly
!
beneath the light
and look above.

《 END 》

OK.
COME WITH ME IF YOU WANT TO LIVE!
HONESTLY, I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DRAGGED ME HERE LIKE THAT,...
YOU EVEN ENDANGERED MY LITTLE BROTHER!
SOB
BUT, I WAS DESPERATE!
I'M SORRY! IT'S JUST... WE HAVE SO MANY GREAT PROJECTS AND SO LITTLE STAFF!
BOW
WE REALLY NEED YOU!
FLINCH
SO YOU NEED ME, HUH? THEN I'LL HELP, BUT FIRST YOU HAVE TO DO SOMETHING FOR ME...
DOKI DOKI
EH!? IS THAT ALL!?
...SAY "PLEASE"
serious

MISTY RAIN SCANS NEEDS TRANSLATORS AND EDITORS!
IF YOU CAN HELP, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT HTTP://MISTYRAINSCANS.BLOGSPOT.COM